

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Green Streets Act of 2009. Cities and States across the country are having a hard time affording the asphalt needed to repair their crumbling streets due to increasing cost of asphalt. This increase in the cost has been caused by many refineries forgoing asphalt production to instead produce more profitable products. As a result, communities in my district and across the country are postponing roadwork until transportation departments can better allocate funds without breaking their budgets.

To provide cash strapped cities and States the much need break in asphalt costs, I have introduced the Green Streets Act, which would promote the research of alternative asphalt binders made from biomass. In my home State of Missouri there is a company that is researching the use of swine manure to replace petroleum as an asphalt binder.

Not only could this potentially cut street repair costs for communities across the country, but would also reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the amount of biomass left to give off carbon dioxide. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Green Streets Act of 2009.